

Welcome to the 26th World Congress of the International Association for Media and Communication Research

Stockholm University and the Department of Journalism, Media and Communication has the privilege to host the 26th world congress of the International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) to be held in Stockholm, Sweden July 20-25 2008. The conference will take place on the campus of Stockholm University.

This is the first time during the organisation's 50-year history that the conference is organised in a Nordic country and it is supported by the Nordic research community.

The initiative for this conference has been taken by the Swedish Association for Media and Communication Research (FSMK), an active organisation with broad interests among media scholars. The actual organisation of the conference has also been conceived as a close cooperative effort including representatives from Swedish and Nordic colleges and universities and Nordicom, the longstanding organisation for information on Nordic media and communication research. Among others Stockholm University's Vice-Chancellor has expressed clear support.

Congress theme

Media and Global Divides

The congress addresses relationships between media and contemporary global divides, be they historical or emergent phenomena. It will explore the pivotal yet under-researched roles of the media with regard to today's global inequalities.

In recent decades the world has undergone fundamental changes related to geopolitical, economic, cultural, religious and other conditions. New divisions, no longer based on territory, have complicated or partially replaced the old East-West and North-South dimensions of the world system, generating differences and distinctions that cut through local life worlds, between cities and suburbs, between the expanding metropolis and the countryside. We have witnessed the globalization of traditional group identities and affiliations along ideological, religious, class, gender and ethnic lines, at the same time that new transnational affiliations are being formed.

Different media and media genres are related in different ways to these developments. The most common media representations, it seems, simply ignore global cleavages, by masking them or framing them in "Western" terms. This is most evident in the context of an emerging new world order. This in turn is related to a range of other divides, the digital divide being perhaps the most frequently noted, with its repercussions for transnational media structures. These divides can be characterized as simultaneously

technological and social, generated by markets and socio-political orders. They are further reflected in an array of media genres and formats, as well as in the segmentation of national, regional and worldwide audiences, as seen for example in divisions between elite and popular media productions. There are at the same time cases where these distinctions are increasingly blurred, particularly in the most rapidly modernizing and expanding media systems, which often place commercial and transnational media forms in the service of political governance. Challenging this trend, we see the expansion of democracy movements around the world, placing inequality on the agendas of both mainstream and alternative media.

These transformations point to media as increasingly significant actors and as establishing new arenas on a global scale. Comparative and in-depth study of these developments, both as distinct phenomena and as intrinsically interdependent, both as factors internal to media and as they affect the media's increasingly complex relationships to other factors, together constitute a major challenge for media and communication research as we face the second decade of the new millennium.

Call for papers

to be presented at the IAMCR World Congress in Stockholm, July 2008.
Abstracts are due to January 31, 2008, to be submitted to heads of sections and working groups.

Scientific research council and organizing committee

The following persons have agreed to serve on the research council for the congress:

- Dr *Elisabeth Eide*, Oslo University College, Norway
- Dr *Lars Holmgaard Christensen*, Aalborg University, Denmark
- Professor *Ullamaija Kivikuru*, Helsinki University, Finland
- Dr *Ester Pollack*, Stockholm University
- Professor *Karin Becker*, Stockholm University
- Professor *Göran Bolin*, Södertörn University College
- Professor *Ulla Carlsson*, Nordicom and Göteborg University
- Professor *Mats Ekström*, Örebro University
- Professor *Gunilla Jarlbro*, Lund University
- Dr *Madeleine Kleberg*, Stockholm University
- Professor *Astrid Söderberg-Widding*, Stockholm University
- Professor *Thorbjörn Broddason*, University of Iceland, Iceland

The following persons serve on the organizing committee for the conference:

- Dr *Ester Pollack*, Stockholm University, pollack@jmk.su.se
- Dr *Anja Hirdman*, Stockholm University, hirdman@jmk.su.se
- Professor *Karin Becker*, Stockholm University, becker@jmk.su.se
- Dr *Madeleine Kleberg*, Stockholm University, kleberg@jmk.su.se
- Dr *Göran Leth*, Stockholm University, leth@jmk.su.se
- *Håkan Lindhoff*, Stockholm University, lindhoff@jmk.su.se

Preliminary program

Sunday July 20

- 15:00-19:00 Arrivals and registration (Aula Magna)
19:00-21:00 Buffet (Campus)
Main speaker: *Vandana Shiva*
Music

Monday July 21

- 8:30-9:30 Registration
9:30-10:15 Welcome
10:15-12:30 Keynotes
Annabelle Sreberny & Jan Nederveen Pieterse, addressing the conference theme: 'Media and Global Divides'
12:30-14:00 Lunch
14:00-16:30 Sections and working groups
18:00-20:00 Banquet (Town Hall, Stockholm City)

Tuesday July 22

- 9:00-12:30 Sections and working groups
12:30-14:00 Lunch
14:00-19:00 Sections and working groups
19:30 Organized activity, archipelago trip with buffet and music

Wednesday July 23

- 9:00-12:30 Plenary
International panel on Global Divides:
Indrajit Banerjee, Yuezhi Zhao, Francis Nyamnjoh, Lilie Chouliaraki, Robin Mansell (as confirmed November 07)
12:30-14:00 Lunch
14:00-15:30 Sections and working groups
16:00-19:30 General Assembly
20:00 Free/Sociological tour

Thursday July 24

- 9:00-12:30 Plenary
Yudishthir Raj Isar and a Nordic panel on Global Divides
12:30-14:00 Lunch
14:00-19:00 Sections and working groups
19:00-20:00 James Halloran Memorial Lecture by *Cees Hamelink*
Campus event (outdoor, music)

**For further information see:
www.iamcr.org and www.jmk.su.se**

